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This hearing of the Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities will come to order.

Today we begin three days of hearings on the reauthorization of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, which includes the authorizations of the National Endowments on the Arts and Humanities and the Institute of Museum Services. We will be examining the condition and health of the arts, humanities, and museums in this country and what role the Federal government should play in their support.

Our focus today will be on the Arts Endowment. We have an impressive array of witnesses who will testify today, and I am eager to hear their thoughts and opinions on the Endowment, how it works, what its faults might be, and what we in Congress can do to address these areas in an effective manner.

As the father of the Endowment, I have long followed its activities. I have been one of its strongest supporters in Congress. However, recent reports of some possible problems within the Endowment have bothered me greatly. I am particularly concerned with many of the issues that were addressed by the House Appropriations Committee staff report, and I hope to focus some of the testimony today on those issues.

I am also concerned about whether or not our government, in a tight economy, can afford increased Federal support for the arts. It has been my aim to seek a new funding plateau

for the arts every few years. While the current budgetary situation may make this difficult if not impossible, my goal remains constant.

Further, I think we must all be aware that we live in an era of increased governmental accountability. Taxpayers are demanding that we, as elected officials, make sure that government programs operate as efficiently and effectively as they can. I hope to explore through these hearings whether the Endowment is meeting this citizen mandate.

We have several proposals by the Administration to change pieces of the Endowment's authorizing legislation. I would hope that the witnesses today could discuss these changes, and whether or not they would make a beneficial change in the Endowment's operation.

I do not mean, by raising these concerns, to indicate that I am in any way reneging in my support for the arts. I think that there is a legitimate and justified role for the Federal government to play in the arts, and I believe that the Endowment has been working hard to fulfill this role. But I think the concerns that I have raised are on the minds of my colleagues and of many people around the country, and candid, forthright answers to the questions that will be raised today can only help to strengthen the Endowment's role in the future.

I am particularly happy to have several dear friends testifying before the Subcommittee today. Mrs. Mondale has been a valuable spokesperson for the arts, and her advocacy within the White House for the arts has been a vital national resource. She has brought to the attention of the Federal government that there are many nontraditional art forms that are in need of Federal assistance as much as the more traditional art forms. She is to be commended and assisted in that effort.

Another dear friend is Livingston Biddle, the Chairman of the Endowment for the Arts. He worked with me to develop the original arts legislation, and now he is administering the Endowment programs. I will be asking Chairman Biddle some searching questions about the Endowment that he now heads, and I am confident that his answers will be responsive to the issues at hand and helpful to the Subcommittee as it develops this reauthorizing legislation.

We will also be hearing from representatives of the major arts disciplines, the State arts councils, and community arts agencies. From the testimony we will receive from all of these witnesses, we will develop the record necessary to structure the Federal policy in the arts for the next five years.

I am happy to welcome our first witness today, Mrs. Joan Mondale, Honorary Chairman of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.